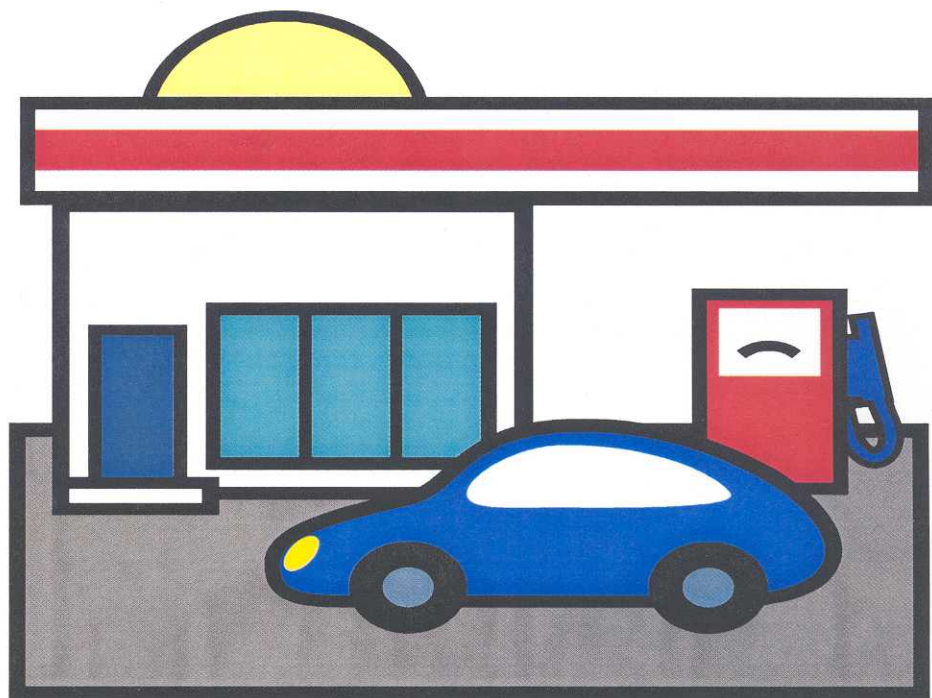


Petroleum Products Program



California Department of Food and Agriculture
Division of Measurement Standards
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INFORMATION GUIDE

Introduction

The Petroleum Products Program maintains and enforces the minimum performance and drivability standards for most petroleum and automotive products (gasoline, gasoline/oxygenate blends, diesel fuel, motor oil, kerosene, brake fluid, automatic transmission fluid, engine coolant and gear oil) sold in California. Additionally, the Program regulates the advertising and labeling of these products. However, the Program **does not** regulate the cost of these products.

There are approximately 14.5 billion gallons of gasoline and 2.6 billion gallons of diesel fuel sold in California each year. Contaminated gasoline, diesel fuel and brake fluid represent major areas of concern for the Program. The marketplace is consistently monitored to ensure the quality of these products, as well as to assure the integrity of motor oils, gear oils, automatic transmission fluids, and engine coolants. The Program operates two laboratories in the State for the testing and analysis of routine and suspect samples. Products are removed from the marketplace and appropriate enforcement action taken when substandard products are found.

The Program is funded by a Motor Oil Fee of \$0.02 per gallon, which is paid on each gallon of motor oil first produced or imported into California. Motor oil means any product used to lubricate the moving parts of a gasoline or diesel engine. The fees required under [Sections 13430 and 13431 of the Business and Professions Code](#), are not imposed on motor oil distributed to locations outside of California.

Where Can the Laws and Regulations be Found?

The laws relating to petroleum products were first enacted in 1931 and are found in the [California Business and Professions Code, Division 5, Chapters 14 and 15](#). Regulations that further define and implement the laws are found in the [California Code of Regulations, Title 4, Division 9, Chapters 6, 7, and 8](#). Violations of the petroleum laws are classified as misdemeanors and carry fines of up to \$1,000 per violation and/or six months in county jail.

General Terms and Definitions

Petroleum Products	This term is defined to include gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, motor oil, gear oil, liquefied petroleum gas (when used as a motor vehicle fuel), thinner, solvent, liquefied natural gas, white gasoline, or any other motor fuel.
Automotive Spark-ignition Engine Fuel	Any product used for the generation of power in a spark-ignition internal combustion engine, i.e., a gasoline engine.
<u>Octane Number (Octane)</u>	A numerical measure of the antiknock properties of a motor vehicle fuel. The average of the research number plus the motor number, i.e., $(R+M)/2$. It is the resistance of the gasoline to pinging in the engine.
Compression-ignition Engine Fuel	Any product used for the generation of power in a compression-ignition internal combustion engine, i.e., a diesel engine.
Motor Oil	Any product used to lubricate the moving parts of an internal combustion engine. It includes natural, synthetic, and re-refined products.
Developmental Engine Fuel	An experimental motor vehicle fuel that does not meet current standards established by the Department, but which has characteristics that may lead to an improved fuel standard or the development of an alternative fuel standard.
Automotive Products	This term is defined to include engine coolants (antifreezes), pre-diluted engine coolants, automatic transmission fluids, and brake fluids.
Advertising Sign or Advertising Medium	A banner, sign, placard, poster, streamer, or card, whether mounted or not, whether appearing on the same or different standards, or whether or not physically connected with each other, provided the advertising statement can reasonably be read as one advertising message.
Motor Oil Fee	A \$0.02 per gallon fee on motor oil first manufactured or imported into California for sale.
<u>American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)</u>	A not-for-profit organization made up of producers, users, regulators, and consumers who meet on common ground for the purpose of writing consensus standards and testing methods for materials and products.

Questions and Answers

The following information provides you with answers to frequently asked questions and should be used only as a guide and not considered to be a legal authority.



How many gas stations are in the State or a county?

The Division of Measurement Standards works in conjunction with the California Energy Commission to develop a database of the gas station locations in California. The database is available on-line at the Energy Commission's website located at

http://www.energy.ca.gov/gasoline/gasoline_stations/index.html.



I just filled up my vehicle with gasoline or diesel fuel and now it pings/does not run right/quit running. What can I do?

The Division of Measurement Standards is responsible for enforcing the State's minimum quality standards for gasoline and diesel fuel as well as accurate quantity being delivered. Customers who experience problems after purchasing fuel should contact one of the [Division of Measurement Standards](#) office locations or call their [county office of weights and measures](#). The Division of Measurement Standards Weights and Measures [Consumer Complaint Form](#) is available on our website at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/dms/Forms.htm>.



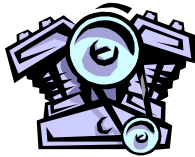
I don't think I got all the gasoline/diesel fuel I paid for. How do I file a complaint?

Customers who feel they did not get the full amount should contact one of the [Division of Measurement Standards](#) office locations or call their [county office of weights and measures](#). A consumer's [Complaint Report Form](#) is available on our website by clicking on the link.



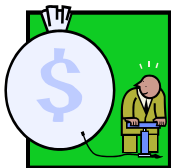
What does the octane number mean?

The [octane number](#) or antiknock index is a number that represents the ability of the gasoline to resist pinging or predetonation. The higher the number the greater the resistance. A higher number does not increase horsepower or increase performance in a properly tuned-up car.



Does a higher-octane gasoline make my car run better or increase its horsepower?

You should use the octane level fuel for your car that is recommended by the manufacturer. Purchasing a [higher-octane fuel](#) than the engine was designed to run on will not make it perform better or increase its horsepower.



Is there any real difference in gasoline brands or between major brands and independent brands?

Gasoline produced in California is regulated by both the Air Resources Board and the Division of Measurement Standards. All gasoline must meet the minimum standards established by these agencies. From that standpoint, all gasoline is virtually the same regarding performance, drivability, and air pollution emissions. Each producer of gasoline may add additional components within these basic standards that they feel enhances their product.